

88 Number 48 Tuesday, November 26, 1968 Five Cents

The Tech

French proposal

Meeting discusses curriculum changes

By Tony Lima

(Ed. Note: See editorial p. 2)

General dissatisfaction was the mood of the open meeting held to discuss the proposal of the Committee on Educational Policy's task force on Institute requirements. Attendance was somewhat disappointing, as only about 25 students and 40 faculty were present.

Professor A. P. French (VIII), chairman of the group, remarked at the start that his task force was not concerned with specific course content, but rather with general requirements which would express the philosophy of MIT education.

The major objections to the proposal seemed to center on two points: the elimination of 5.01 as a requirement and consideration of whether or not the liberalization of requirements was proceeding along a reasonable line. The former topic occupied most of the time; however, after hearing such comments as the one proposed by Prof. Ed Gilland (X) that if 5.01 were dropped as a requirement, the Department of Chemical Engineering would probably be forced to increase the number of courses required for graduation to 372, Prof. John Ross (V), head of the Department of Chemistry, pointed out that as good a case could be made for dropping biology as a requirement as chemistry. After this, the discussion was dropped.

There were two key points to the second area of discussion. The first was the question of whether or not there should be any requirements at all. The key points here were the elimination of requirements and the conversion to a recommended course procedure. Mike Albert '69, in support of the idea of elimination of requirements, quoted Prof. Jerrold R. Zacharias (VIII) as saying that if a student is forced to take a course which he really doesn't want to take, the effect will not only be negative, it will be positive. The body of response to this seemed directed to the question of what could be accomplished at this time. The feeling was that such a proposal could

A second meeting to discuss changes in the Institute core curriculum will be held Tuesday at 3:30 pm in P-150. This meeting is sponsored by the faculty task force which has been preparing a proposal for the reorganization of the required core subjects and is open to all interested students.

not be passed.

The proposal to move toward a recommended courses procedure was advanced by Prof. Duncan Foley (XIV). He pointed out that, through petitions, students can often get around the relevant requirements. It was his feeling that an acceptable alternative would be to say that MIT recommends that the following courses

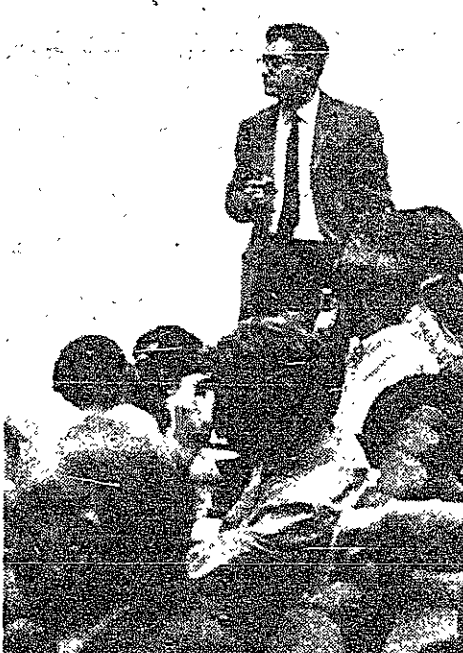
be taken, and instruct all advisers to strongly urge students to take these subjects.

In line with this, one major alternative was presented to the group. This was the proposal of an ad hoc student committee on the revision of general Institute requirements. The French proposal differed from current requirements in the following ways:

(Please turn to page 3)



Professors French (left) and Ross (right) air their views at Friday's open meeting of the Committee on Curriculum.



Photos by Jon Borschow

Labs on campus

MAC's master machines work, smirk

(Ed. Note: This is the first in a series of articles on the activities of some of the on-campus Special Laboratories.)

By Dave deBronkart

Project MAC must be the only government-financed project in the country where one can simultaneously play chess, listen to an organ arrangement of "Downtown," watch fireworks, and be attacked by a hand that doesn't realize what it's doing, all without the slightest interaction with another person.

These are some of the fantastic science-fiction results of Project MAC's artificial intelligence experiments. Just as exciting is Multics, another of the Project's programs.

Multics (Multiplexed Information and Computing Service) is currently the most urgent of MAC's concerns. Its aim, according to Project MAC Director James Licklider, is to "set up a community of users and a computer utility" by linking many computers'

data, hardware, and software facilities together. The program is not running as well as had been hoped; Prof. Licklider feels that a critical point is approaching.

First time-sharing

Project MAC, which operates under the Office of Naval Research, was organized in 1963. In its first year the group designed the world's first time-sharing system. Time-sharing has since had overwhelming effects on the entire computer industry; Multics, if successful, is expected to have at least as much effect on the entire public.

Prof. Licklider feels that if Multics is perfected it might be the first step toward an ultimate computer utility service. Ideally, a typical problem could be punched into a keyboard in a home relayed to an exchange in New York, programmed and run on computers in Chicago and Boston using data stored in Anchorage and Dallas, with final results being produced in the home in only slightly more time than if all the facilities were physically present.

current Inscomm has been able to pull itself together and act efficiently in times of crisis such as during Sanctuary. What is especially needed at this time are more people who have time that they are willing to devote to Inscomm's operation. The problem which must be solved before student government's operation can be more effective is that of the current attitude among the student body that student government is an alien body and totally irrelevant to the desires of the students. Maria believes that a change in the structure of Inscomm is more fundamental than a change in student attitudes, for it is likely that opinions and responses to Inscomm would change if reorganization were effected.

The groups working on the TANG (Toward A New Government) proposal stated that the one purpose of TANG or any form of student reorganization should be to allow each and every student to have a forum to voice his opinions, and further be able to participate in all decisions of student government directly. Jeff Satinover '69 and Mike Albert '69, the primary spokesmen for the TANG group, stated that MIT is not such a large community that it is absolutely necessary to have strict representation and a formal bureaucracy to govern it in the traditional sense. The salient point of TANG, they maintained, was a student assembly which was to have control, at all levels, of decision-making processes affecting student life.

Two objections to the TANG proposal were raised immediately, and

never totally rebutted: That any highly disciplined and motivated interest group on campus could "pack" a sparsely attended meeting and ram through motions favorable to themselves. In this manner, a highly controversial motion could be passed and then uncommitted at a later meeting as special interest groups competed with each other to pack meetings with students favorable to their view, keeping important proposals in a state of constant flux, with no final action ever being taken.

Also, under such a constitution, others argue, matters could be "discussed to death," causing the student body to lose all interest and respect for the assembly. One suggestion, that balloting on all motions, which under TANG are to be proposed to an Agenda Committee and publicized throughout the Institute, take place either in the lobby of Building Ten or in the living groups, was considered as a plausible means of ending the problem.

The other five proposals were primarily variations of the present Inscomm structure, with some proposing the inclusion of faculty and administration in the decision-making processes of government on all levels.

The questions basic to the entire program appear to be whether reorganization will be allowed to slide any further off into the future and the choice between the representative and mass participation forms of student government.

News analysis

Faculty powers, secrecy discussed in Sala forum

By Charles Mann

The problem of involving the entire MIT community in a decision making and the relation of that problem to closed and open meetings was discussed in a forum Friday. The meeting held in the Sala centered its interest around the question of the faculty meetings. At present these meetings are closed to all students though it appears that as a result of the meeting most topics that are now considered by the faculty will be open to general discussion. The form that this discussion might take is unclear since there are several possibilities. The faculty meetings could be opened up to attendance by students; there could be joint meetings to discuss common problems; and there could be meetings of the whole MIT community at which a wide range of topics could be brought up and considered openly by students, faculty, and administration.

The reason for the proposal of these alternatives and the dissatisfaction with the present system of closed meetings is a concern for the involvement of the whole community in the decision-making progress. As it stands now most people do not know how decisions are made since the mechanism for most major decisions is very complicated. As a result of this lack of information, most students are unaware of even those opportunities which already exist for influencing major decisions. It is hoped that if a system of public meetings can be established the students will find it easy to participate in making decisions or at least discover who makes them.

Consequences

The advantages of the closed meetings are fairly obvious from the point of view of the participants and it was brought up in the discussion at the meeting that some closed meetings would have to be held and that even if all meetings were open some topics are of interest or concern to only a small number of people. Assuming that a workable method for student participation can be established, the consequences might well be an establishment of more universal decision-making apparatus for the student body, the faculty, and the community as a whole. The complaint was made at a meeting early last week that there is no sense of community at MIT. Perhaps the lack of community is due in some part to the lack of consensus which is inherent in a system in which not everyone can participate.

announcements

* Anyone still interested in serving on the Advisory Committee on Selective Service should sign up for an interview in the Inscomm office by December 6. A temporary representative has been appointed, who will serve through Dec. 9. A final selection will be made Dec. 8.

* The Tech Dames Holiday Craft Sale will take place December 6 in the lobby of Building 10 from 8 am until 4 pm.

On Institute Requirements

This past Friday, an "open" meeting of faculty and interested students was held to begin a supposedly enlightened discussion and examination of proposals made by the CEP Task Force on General Institute Requirements headed by Professor Anthony French. Instead, what occurred was a low level superficial and irrelevant debate by a group of small-thinking, narrow minded and selfish faculty members who could not escape the world of self-serving arguments.

Specifically, the discussion digressed into a desperate attempt by the chemical engineers and some other chemistry oriented faculty to preserve the sacredness of the 5.01 requirement. At best, Professors Edwin Gilliland and John Wulff came up

with rather specious, Neanderthal arguments for keeping this requirement. The implicit suggestion of Gilliland's points was that without 5.01, no one would bother to go into Chem. E. Given the quality of his arguments, it is not surprising.

In all fairness, it cannot be unexpected that those with such narrow interests will show up in force at such meetings to argue in such a consistent manner. But consistency is often the mark of small minds, and Friday's meeting did nothing to contradict this assertion. What is really appalling is that everyone else at the meeting was basically satisfied with the focus and emphasis of the discussion. The French Task Force proposals are not particularly earth-shattering or revolutionary, but do show a degree of enlightenment which seems to indicate that French himself might wish to steer the discussion to a deeper and more sophisticated level.

It is clear where the real interests and concerns of this Institute lie and no fancy embroidered speeches by Howard Johnson can change the truth. The focus is truly on the technical students. In Friday's meeting there was not one attempt by faculty to look at the education and needs of the non-technical student. Architecture, Management, Humanities and Social Science, the three smaller schools as they are affectionately known, are like unwanted children who everyone tries to ignore and not offend too badly. This is patently clear from last Friday's meeting which never once had faculty talking seriously about the rôle and functions of these schools.

The only honest attempt to deal with the issue was made by a group of students representing technical and non-technical schools who made a carefully thought-out proposal to eliminate all upperclass science and engineering requirements. Except for a superficial and trite rejoinder by George Valley, the whole issue was dropped at this point and French tried to skirt any further deep discussion of the problem.

In regard to the non-technical students, the Institute can no longer make due with incremental, politically wise proposals. A great deal of honesty and introspection is long overdue in light of present hypocrisy. Any further discussions by faculty must address basic philosophical issues squarely and not take up time by the obscure intricacies of the minor effects on technical schools. The students' proposal of last Friday is worth considering, at least to start off the whole discussion.

The sham of last Friday was not entirely the fault of those present. Those absent are also to blame. Faculty from departments like Political Science, Economics and Humanities ought to have the courage to express the concerns they so often bring up amongst themselves or in private. For the sake of their own departments and students they could at least bother to show up at such meetings. The next opportunity is today at 3:30 in the auditorium of the Center for Advanced Engineering Study. We urge all interested faculty and students to attend, and we urge all others to get interested.

Nixon vs. Congress-- causes for optimism

By Jim Smith

WASHINGTON—The Nixon victory can be promising to the extent that Republicans will now have to put their vaunted alternatives to the test of America's very serious problems. If their alternatives work, great. If they don't, then the Republicans will have learned something. In the meantime, Congress appears ready to give Nixon the benefit of the doubt—recognizing after all that it is the Democrats in the executive branch who got us where we are.

Nixon's chief problem, *vis a vis* the Democrats, is that he starts with a credibility gap without even the chance to earn it. Few people, including this writer, took generous stock in the Republicans' enunciation of such items as "black capitalism" (a Democratic idea) or "tax incentives" to bring employers to the ghetto, out of the partisan—and legitimate—fear that these were ~~honest~~ fair coverups for scuttling the federal anti-poverty effort.

Actually, the Democrats were beginning to reach an accommodation with free enterprise on their own prior to the election. In purer days, the Democrats would prefer a new federal bureau in cases where the Republicans would look to private enterprise.

Housing was one example. Public housing was public all the way: construction and management both under civil service. Gradually, the Democrats have turned to private enterprise. They found, for example, that the "turn-key" method of purchasing finished buildings was less expensive, better in quality and more rapid than constructing their own. Once the housing was ready for occupancy, they found that private management contractors were far more efficient and responsive to tenants' needs than were civil service bureaucrats who commuted in on weekdays only in their Pontiac Bonnevilles.

Across the river, the city dump was a national disgrace, breeding rats and pouring 20 tons of pollutants into the air daily. Now the operation has been turned over to a private contractor who landfills trash for less than the cost of burning it and fails to lay rat poison only at his peril. (In Philadelphia, the entire trash disposal situation is being turned over to private enterprise at a substantial reduction in cost. All the city will be doing soon is delivering the trash to private transfer stations; a company will do the rest, using sound business methods to cut costs but always watchful not to jeopardize its contract.)

It is all straight from the text on power and self-interest: a contractor (under the eye of a watchdog) is going to be far more efficient and effective than the disinterested bureaucrat whose power is assured.

Free enterprise, certainly, proven tool for economic development and if anyone can harness it effectively to tackle urban problems, probably a Republican. Democrats themselves lament the unresponsiveness of the civil service system and would be glad to see some de-scaling of it, if at no cost to the public wallet. This is not the same thing as Mr. Harrington's favorite nightmare, someday the government itself will be contracted out to Little Industries—for a profit.

Efficient administration is one of the sound Republican principles which could be taken more advantage of in the implementation of established programs. Fortunately the patterns are such, as America becomes more urbanized, that no President could exert these principles at the expense of Democratic compassion. Admittedly, too many of these programs were pushed through by a democratic regime with too little attention toward operational safeguards and effectiveness, but a president who wished to be re-elected by the people will not abandon these programs.

This is not to imply necessarily that the Nixon administration will be a caretaker regime over old programs without offering new and needed ones. The Republicans in Congress, for example, have been working numerous liberal programs: training, a "Human Renewal Fund," congressional reform, draft reform, so forth, all programs which also appeal to liberal democrats. It was Republican Senator Jacob Javits who put forth a bill last year to establish a Development Bank providing low-risk loans. This bill later became title within the Community Self-Determination Act, a bipartisan bill high on the agenda of the Senate Finance Committee for next year. Such proposals now coming from the Republican president (and he is commanding more Republican votes than working majority far more decisive than Johnson's 89th Congress might transpire. Wisconsin Democrat Congressman Henry Reuss has also proposed such a "grand coalition" to prevent any impasse based on party label. The optimist strikes again.

THE TECH

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Nov. 26, 1968

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Front page photo of Prof. Rosenblith by Alan Goldberg

Letters to The Tech

To the Editor:

One of the annual highlights of the fall term is APO's "Ugly Man On Campus" contest. This year, for the first time, a very pretty MIT coed decided to run, on the basis that because she is a girl, she must be ugly if she were considered to be a man. I believe that although this is admittedly a very novel idea at MIT (it has been done many times at other campuses), it tends to make a travesty of the contest and is very unfair to the other candidates, who take great pride in their genuine ugliness. How can they compete against a candidate who sells kisses for 50 votes? In addition, there is a rather substantial prize that goes to the

winner. At the time this letter was written, the female candidate had a rather substantial lead in the voting and seemed certain to win.

If MIT's coeds want to be placed on equal footing with the men, I suggest they get APO to hold an "Ugly Girl on Campus" contest (or even a "Pretty Girl on Campus" contest), but let them stick to their own sex. I can just picture what might develop if half a dozen girls were to run for next year's UMOC crown! Clearly, the situation is getting out of hand and I urge APO to examine their philosophy with regards to the contest. What can our coeds think up next?

Paul Greenfeld '71

theatre...

'Promise' reveals fascinating structure

By Robert Fourer

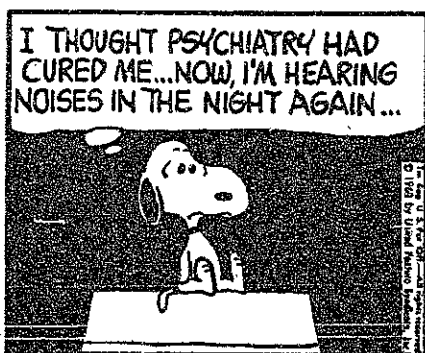
Aleksei Arbozov's play, *The Promise*, traces the life of three middle-class Russians, beginning from their first meeting as teenagers during the siege of Leningrad in 1942, and continuing to 1960. Its aim is to show something about what has happened to Russian society since the war, and perhaps to say something about man's nature in general. Such a plan hardly embodies any new ideas. One expects it to lead to something entirely familiar, containing the usual themes of forgotten ambitions and irreversible changes. And, in a way, it does; but certainly not in the usual way — for the result is just the opposite.

The difference is this: the characters aren't just average people; they never say or do exactly what one expects. In this lies almost entirely the play's fascination. The playwright can have his characters act as he pleases, and the logic of their actions need only make sense within his own philosophy of what the people they represent are like. If the structure is sufficiently clever, these characters become so engrossing that the plot is hardly noticed; hence the plan it follows is of little matter. The long-range path of events need not be exciting when every word or action of each character is.

Thus it is not upsetting when the scenes do not flow smoothly into one

another, or when the appearance of a third character is left unexplained. The suspense of watching the logic unfold of trying to fit the clues into place enough. Unfortunately, not everything becomes clear after seeing the play once. This is especially true here, where some familiarity with the candidate Russian society is probably assumed, though it is a weakness of all plays. But, what is most important enough comes through the first time: keep the audience thinking afterward to perhaps induce some people to see the play or see it again. And, in case, it does provide an absorbing experience of theatre.

Some credit, too, must go to Loeb Drama Center's fine production. A three-hour play with only three parts puts heavy demands on all, especially when the characterizations change greatly from beginning to end. Michael Sacks, Eleanor Lindsay, and George Sheenstang did a convincing job, never ruined the suspense by slipping into uniformity. They were helped greatly by Donald Soule's fantastic and lighting design, which also matched exactly the quickly changing moods.



Core curriculum

Discussion centers on frosh chemistry

(Continued from page 1)
required subjects in mathematics and physics, while they are still two each in number, are no longer specified by specific course; chemistry is no longer required; the laboratory subject may be satisfied by courses outside the schools of science and engineering; the minimum unrestricted elective time available in the first two years is

increased from 36 to 48 units; and the concentration requirements in both the upperclass science distribution and humanities are eliminated. The student group, chaired by Mike Devorkin '69, while agreeing in philosophy with the French proposal, differed in that the upperclass science distribution requirements were completely eliminated. Prof. George Valley (VIII),

whose report on the freshman year initiated much of the work on revising the curriculum, commented that these courses were necessary if social scientists and humanities majors were to understand the foundations of modern society. A suggestion was made that each department be required to offer a two-semester, terminal course, specifically intended for non-majors in that field. After the presentation of this idea, however, the discussion returned to 5.01, where it remained for the rest of the meeting.
The meeting was closed at 5:00, with very little apparent action planned. It appeared, however, that the faculty members present were very polarized on this subject, making the December faculty meeting give the promise of much heated debate.

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dance...

Pennsylvania Ballet:
new youthful company

By Ray Ergas

At this year's William L. Abromowitz Lecture, the Department of Humanities and the Lecture Series Committee chose to bring the Pennsylvania Ballet, a young company from Philadelphia, to MIT. It was the first performance by a major dance group on this campus in a year, since the New York City Ballet appeared in the same series. Judging from audience response, more performances by dance troupes should be in the future of MIT. The Company was founded in 1963 as one of eight groups that received stabilizing grants from the Ford Foundation. It has appeared in Chicago and at the City Center in New York. It is now on its first national tour. Most of the dancers

are quite young and come from several continents.

A youthful approach and an accompanying insecurity were the major impressions left after the performances Friday and Saturday night in Kresge. The Company has an extremely broad repertoire, ranging from *Swan Lake* and *Giselle* to works by Honegger and Stravinsky. The first work on the program (second on Saturday) was Anna Sokolow's choreography of Teo Macero's *Time Plus*. The dancers seemed to enjoy this piece more than any of the others and it came across as the best part of the entire evening. This intimidating modern work presented a series of symbolic comments on modern life, ranging from the dancers "shooting" the audience, to a solo dancer flamboyantly lighting a joint on-stage. The choreography was done very well and brought out the most sensitive responses by the dancers that were seen.

After the first intermission, the dancers returned for *Theredony*, the Mary Anthony setting of Synge's tragedy *Riders to the Sea*, the music being Benjamin Britten's *Sinfonia da Requiem*. The word that best describes this is stogy. Some of the same problems from the *Mignon* were present, and the extreme lack of action made it rather a bore. Fortunately, next on the program was the Donizetti *Variations* done by Balanchine. The soloists, Hilda Morales and Jacques Cesbron, provided the best solo dancing of the night. The Corps de Ballet, however, provided both some slip-ups and some hilarity. The Corps was obviously a little rough in a lot of places. The relative youth of the company undoubtedly explains most of the problem. The funniest part of the whole performance came when members of the Corps started cutting up and parodying the seriousness which is usually found in this type of dancing. In general, it was done in good taste, leaving the audience guffawing and covering up a few mistakes in the process.



Photo courtesy of Pennsylvania Ballet

A scene from the Anna Sokolow-Teo Macero ballet "Time Plus" as performed by the Pennsylvania Ballet Company this weekend in Kresge.

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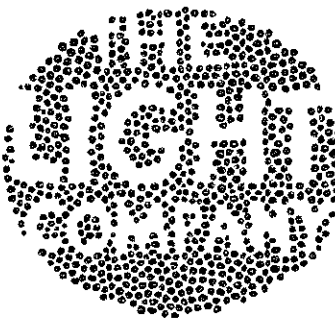
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Andree returns

Wrestlers look forward to great year

By Armen Varteressian

The varsity grapplers of coach Wil Chassey can look forward this year to an even better record than last season's 12-4 mark and 2nd place New England finish. Loss through graduation has been light. Replacing captain Bill Harris '68 in the 123-pound division will probably be Joe Baron '70, a 4th-place medalist in last year's New England's at 115 pounds. Fighting it out for Jack Wu's 137-pound slot will be Gregg Erickson '69, Steve Bishko '69, and Dennis Bocard '71. Erickson wrestled steadily last year at 130 pounds, while Bishko often substituted for the injured Wu at 137.

Mita at 115

A likely candidate for the 115-pound position this year is Ted Mita '71. As a freshman, Mita compiled an excellent record of 9-1 in dual meets.

From 145 pounds up, Tech can look forward to outstanding performances from almost all of its wrestlers this year. Heading the parade at 145 and 152 will be Jack Maxham '69 respectively. Maxham and Hawkins, co-captains of the team, are both New England champions from the 67-68 season. Following them, at 160 pounds will be Rick Willoughby '70, a frosh New England champ two years ago, and a great asset to last year's squad.

The team is looking to Dean Whelan '69 to fill the hole at 167 pounds. Whelan, a relative newcomer to the varsity, has not had much experience, but has looked impressive in the matches he has wrestled. Whelan will be followed in the lineup by what is perhaps the most impressive threesome in New England collegiate wrestling this year. Walt Price '69, the expected 177-pounder for Tech, has a long string of dual meet victories to his credit, as well as a freshman New England championship, and a second-place varsity finish last year. At 191, coach Chassey is counting on Bruce Davies '71. Davies, outstanding freshman wrestler last year, went undefeated in dual meet

competition and captured the New England championships at season's end. Rounding out the squad will be Fred Andree '70 at heavyweight. Andree's accomplishments are a matter of record at MIT. He has a two-year unbeaten string to his credit, two first-place finishes in the New England's, and fourth place, as a sophomore, in the national NCAA college division championship.

With six New England champions on the squad, backed up by winning wrestlers at every other position, coach Chassey can look forward to an interesting - and very winning - season this year.

Swimmers face season with best team in history

By Jeff Goodman

As the start of the swimming season draws near, the engineers prepare to face their schedule with a team equal to, if not better than, any team in Tech history. The swimmers are looking forward to improving last year's 9-4 dual meet record and eighth place finish in the New England's as well as wiping out all existing varsity records.

Tech's two strong points would have to be diving and butterfly. Dan Gentry '68, a five year student who didn't dive last year, has returned with a year eligibility left. Gentry who finished second in the '67 New England's and Boston Rorschach '70 who finished third in the '68 NEISA's backup by Jesse Heines '71 provide awesome diving strength. In the butterfly, co-captain Lee Dilley '69 and Jim Bronfenbrenner '70 can be counted on for many one-two finishes as both have broken 2:10.

In free style, Bill Stage '69 will get the nod in the fifty and the hundred with the other spot as yet uncertain having been opened by the graduation of captain and sprinter John McFarren. Possibilities for the hundred include Jim Lynch '69, Tim Gilmore '70, and sophomore Al Graham who can swim virtually everything. Don Riley '70 and Lynch will probably help out Stage in the fifty.

Co-captain Luis Clare '69 will swim in the first backstroke slot with either John Collier '71, Riley, or Graham. Clare will also get the nod in the 200 yard individual medley. Tom Nesbitt '69 will swim in the breaststroke with Larry Markel '71, who will try to fill the gaping hole left by the graduation of record-holder Larry Preston.

For the distance events, Dilley will be very strong in the 200 yard freestyle. David James '71 will swim the 200 and 500 and should replace Dave Benham '68 adequately.

The engineers will be tough to beat in the relays, especially the 400 yard freestyle relay with Dilley, Clare, and Stage all possessing 50 second hundred yard speed. The swimmers will travel to Troy, NY to start their season Saturday December 7, against RPI.

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